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FEDERAL FUNDS PRESENTED FOR BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT TRAINING USDA Rural Development Grant Awarded to Acadiana Regional Development District

LAFAYETTE, July 28, 2005 – The Acadiana Regional Development District, headquartered in Lafayette, received \$99,000 in Rural Business Enterprise Grant funds today from USDA Rural Development. These funds will be used to provide technical assistance and training workshops to rural entrepreneurs and managers.

“The Rural Business Enterprise Grant Program helps public bodies, private non-profit corporations, and federally-recognized Indian tribal groups support the development of small and emerging private business enterprises in rural areas,” said Michael B. Taylor, State Director for USDA Rural Development. “Through this program, USDA Rural Development is expanding economic opportunities in rural Acadiana.”

The Acadiana Regional Development District will use these grant funds to support training and technical assistance to existing and prospective rural entrepreneurs in Acadia, Evangeline, Iberia, St. Landry, St. Martin, St. Mary, and Vermilion Parishes.

USDA Rural Development provides a full range of rural development credit services in rural Louisiana. The Louisiana USDA Rural Development State Office is located at 3727 Government Street, Alexandria, Louisiana 71302, and the telephone number is (318) 473-7921. There are four area offices located throughout the state to serve Louisiana residents. Further information on USDA Rural Development’s loan and grant programs can be obtained by visiting Rural Development’s web site at: <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov>.

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